Development of sericulture, handloom and handicrafts sector in Assam

3186. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new schemes initiated for development of sericulture, handloom and handicrafts sector in Assam;

(b) whether any special policy has been taken up for development of this sector in North-East region in general and particularly in Assam;

(c) if so, the details of the policy and incentives finalised and status of its implementation;

(d) the details of the export-oriented units proposed to be established in the region during Ninth Plan alongwith the financial allocation; and

(e) the contribution of this sector in North-East region and towards total national export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed. (*See* below)

(d) Although exporters are encouraged by the concerned export promotion councils, Government has no proposal to set up any export-oriented unit in the region in respect of sericulture, handlooms and handicrafts.

(e) Statewise statistics of exports are not maintained.

Statement

Sericulture

In order to supplement efforts of State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R & D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a network of Central Silk Board units and implementation of certain development/investments/financial assistance schemes for encourage adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides the Central Silk Board has also taken up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action Plan for the North Eastern States, etc., in association/collaboration with the States. As far as the State of Assam is concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB during the VIIIth Five Year Plan are as follows:—

(i) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in two districts in Assam infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farms, technical service centres, cocoon markets, demonstration-cum-training centres for reelers and weavers, etc.

(ii) North Eastern Action Plan in the State of Assam is presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increase in acreage by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units, etc. This project is being continued during the IX Plan period.

(iii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing the various cocoons.

(iv) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.

(v) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.

(vi) To boost the production of silk 340 Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for the IXth Plan period.

Handlooms

(i) The Handloom schemes are not State specific.

(ii) For development of N.E. region, the funding pattern under the Project Package Scheme would be 75:25 between the Central and the State Government/Implementing Agency.

(iii) Under the Freelancer designer scheme, the contribution of Rs. 5000/- for a project in N.E. States is met by the Government of India whereas in plain areas it is to be contributed by the society concerned.

(iv) An amount of Rs. 5000/- towards transportation and to encourage participation in remote areas is also given by the Government of India.

(v) Under the scheme of Mill Gate Price Scheme the freight reimbursement for different types of yarn has been fixed @ 3%, 1.50% and 8.50% in respect of yarns other than silk/jute, silk and jute yarn respectively for N.E. region.

Handicrafts

For the speedy development of handicrafts in North Eastern region including the State of Assam, recently following steps have been taken:—

(i) 10% of the total outlay of handicrafts sector has been earmarked for North Eastern Region.

(ii) Two common Facility Centres have been sanctioned in the State of Tripura and one at Guwahati (Assam).

(iii) The Regional design and Technical Development Centres have since started functioning at Guwahati (Assam).

(iv) Studies have been assigned to M/s. NEITCO to suggest measures for self employment generation in West Tripura district and in Imphal district.

(v) Preferential treatment is given to the proposals received from the North eastern region and artisans of the region are encouraged to participate in various marketing development programmes organised in different parts of the country.

Purchase of cotton in Warangal market in Andhra Pradesh

3187. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued to the Cotton Corporation of India to commence purchases of cotton in Warangal market in Andhra Pradesh to help farmers affected by pests; and

(b) if so, the progress made regarding purchases in that area?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) purchases cotton in all the cotton growing States except Maharashtra. Government closely monitors the procurement activities of the CCI to fully protect the interests of farmers, particularly in affected areas. During the current cotton year 1997-98 as on 3.7.1998 the CCI has purchased 48,877 bales of cotton in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh.

छत्तीसगढ़ में शहतूती रेशम पर जापान के साथ समझौता

3188. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में जापान की मदद से शहतूती रेशम के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने तथा उसके विकास कार्य के लिए किस तारीख को समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये थे;

(ख) इस योजना को किस तिथि से लागू किया गया है;

(ग) क्या इस योजना को 1 अप्रैल, 1988 से लागू किया गया है; और

(घ) इस योजना के लिए वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए प्रस्तावित व्यय राशि का ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा): (क) मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में जापान की सहायता से शहतूती रेशम के उत्पादन तथा विकासात्मक कार्य को बढ़ाने के लिए करार पर 12 दिसंबर, 1997 को हस्ताक्षर किये गये थे।